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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-second session

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID

Reports submitted by States parties under article VII of the Convention

Addendum

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC 1/

[8 November 1985]

The Syrian Constitution stipulates as follows:

Freedom is a sacred right. The State shall guarantee the personal freedom of citizens and safeguard their dignity and security. Sovereignty of the law is a basic principle of society and the State. Citizens are equal before the law in regard to their rights and obligations. The State shall observe the principle of equal opportunities for citizens. Every citizen shall have the right to participate in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the country. Freedom of belief shall be safeguarded. The State shall respect all religions and shall guarantee freedom of all forms of religious observance. Work is the right and also the duty of every citizen and the State shall endeavour to ensure that employment opportunities are available for all its citizens. Every citizen has the right to express his opinion publicly and freely either orally, in writing or through any other form of expression and to participate in the task of supervision and constructive criticism. Citizens enjoy the right to peaceful assembly and demonstration.

1/ The initial, second and third reports submitted by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic (E/CN.4/1277/Add.9, E/CN.4/1353/Add.2 and E/CN.4/1505/Add.10) were considered by the Group of Three at its 1978, 1980 and 1982 sessions respectively.

The Syrian Criminal Code contains provisions that prescribe severe penalties for any action and any written or spoken statement the purpose or result of which is the provocation of confessional or racial bigotry or the incitement of conflict among the various communities and component elements of the nation. It is also a punishable offence for any person to belong to an association established for the above-mentioned purpose.

Accordingly, the Syrian Arab Republic, being committed to its humanitarian, national and Arab course of action and to the above-mentioned provisions, condemns all forms of racial discrimination and supports any convention or international measure for the suppression and punishment of apartheid. Through its audio-visual information media, publications and educational programmes, the State highlights and draws attention to this phenomenon, the reprehensible nature of which is clearly understood and deplored by the Syrian Arab people, as can be seen from the fact that no case involving racial discrimination has been brought before the Syrian courts for many years.

In keeping with these principles, the Syrian Government is engaged in an international struggle in various fields to put an end to zionism and to Israeli rule in occupied Arab Palestine since that ideology and that rule are based on racial and ethnic principles. The Syrian Government is also struggling to put an end to racist rule in South Africa and Namibia and to promcte national liberation in those countries.

It should be noted that most of the transnational corporations operating in South Africa are assisting and strengthening the racist régime in that country through the provision of economic, technical and military support. Accordingly, representations should be made to the countries in which such corporations are operating with a view to controlling their activities in support of apartheid in South Africa. The Syrian Government therefore condemns the actions and conduct of those corporations.

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Reports submitted by States parties under article VII of the Convention

Addendum

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC 1/

[8 November 1985]

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*/ Re-issued for technical reasons.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID

Reports submitted by States parties under article VII of the Convention

Addendum

CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1/

[Original: English]
[25 November 1985]

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic considers apartheid the most extreme policy of racial terror and disenfranchisement. At the present time the struggle against apartheid is one of the key problems which does not concern the continent of Africa alone. Similarly as Hitler's racist theoreticians, the ideologues of apartheid, representing the positions of the ruling class, are advocating and implementing the "ideals" of absolute racial segregation shaped into concrete form in the laws on bantustans. The doctrine of apartheid envisages complete territorial segregation and separate development of the basic racial groups living in South Africa. In practice this means consistent segregation, denial of political, civil and socio-economic rights of the negro population. In southern Africa the policy of racial discrimination, the placing of the members of one race above those of another, crystalized into the most shocking form.

Apartheid is not politically localized. Through their theories and, above all, the brutal suppression of any progressive or democratic nations, the South African racists turned the whole country under their rule into a veritable prison of Africans, Asians and "cross-breeds". This is attested by constant reports from South Africa about the cruel treatment of prisoners and about

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1/ The initial and second reports submitted by the Government of Czechoslovakia (E/CN.4/1277/Add.6 and E/CN.4/1983/24/Add.5) were considered by the Group of Three at its 1978 and 1983 sessions respectively.

murders committed on innocent black inhabitants. The attempts of the ruling circles to extricate the "white minority" régime from the crisis and to stop the liberation process by means of violence and superficial reforms only lead to the growth of the movement against apartheid and to deepening controversies in the highest ruling circles of the white community. The so-called reforms do not, nor can they, follow the objective of really changing the foundations of the system of apartheid.

In September 1984, the new Constitution of South Africa entered into force, according to which the present Pretoria parliament has three chambers where 178 seats are reserved for whites which leaves all power in the country in their hands. The cross-breeds were given 85 seats and inhabitants of Asian origin 45 seats. These so-called elections condemned by the United Nations as a fraud changed nothing in the status of the 23 million Africans who continue to be denied the most fundamental political rights, including the right to vote.

Apartheid - that is not only an anti-human, barbarian policy that denies all principles of human ethics and humanism, but also a real threat to international peace and security. South Africa represents a military-police State noted for particular aggressiveness. The South African military machinery is regularly organizing provocations and criminal attacks against independent, sovereign States of the African continent which oppose apartheid. Among the last crimes of this kind committed by the Pretoria Government is the vile attack against Angola. The military-industrial complex of South Africa is becoming extremely dangerous for these countries. The aim of the aggressive inroads is to strengthen the apartheid régime, to weaken the front-line States and to destabilize the situation in that part of the world. The racists are trying to discredit the progressive forces of the region, to raise doubts among the local population about their ability to implement effectively the socio-economic development and advancement of friendly relations among the different nations and nationalities.

It is possible to achieve the elimination of apartheid only by respecting the relevant United Nations resolutions on South Africa and by implementing the Programme of Action against apartheid. The Western countries, however, are not implementing these resolutions and instead are looking for new ways and means of maintaining their political and economic positions in that region. It is well known that several hundred transnational monopolies and corporations from advanced capitalist countries, notably the United States and Great Britain, are active in southern Africa. These States have an interest in the system of apartheid and oppression of the black majority being maintained there because it is advantageous for them since it provides cheap labour and thus maximum profits.

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic resolutely condemns all manifestations of both direct and indirect co-operation with the South African régime. It is of the opinion that it is necessary to convene a session of the United Nations Security Council that would adopt, in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations appropriate measures, including the imposition of sanctions under its Chapter VII. Only if all countries members of the United Nations fulfil the resolutions on severing political, economic, military, cultural and other relations, will it be possible to achieve a total isolation of the racist

Government of South Africa. Only a consistent blockade of South Africa will represent real assistance to the heroic African population and its national liberation movement in the struggle for the elimination of the racist white minority régime.

The events in South Africa attest to a deep crisis of the apartheid régime. Pretoria's "own alternative" to the solution of the Namibia problem and the outright rejection of resolution 435 by South African Premier P. Botha, the terrorist acts against neighbouring States as well as the continuing extreme brutality against the indigenous population of South Africa indicate that the Pretoria régime does not have the least intention to change its present positions which in the grossest way contravene the Charter of the United Nations. In the resolution adopted on 12 March 1985 the Security Council urgently appealed to the Pretoria Government to discontinue violence and repressions against the indigenous population and other opponents of apartheid and to adopt without delay positive measures with a view to eliminating apartheid.

Czechoslovakia resolutely rejects apartheid not only as a form of racism but especially as a political system oppressing and exploiting the majority of the population in southern Africa. It fully supports the 1972 appeal of the Special Committee against Apartheid that "every interested person, whether individually or as part of a group, can play a role in the international campaign against apartheid and all other forms of racism". Czechoslovakia does not maintain any political, military, economic, cultural, sports or other contacts with the racist régime of South Africa. It resolutely condemns torture and mistreatment of prisoners in the South African prisons. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic calls on all States to take resolute step towards stopping the crimes of the South African racist régime.

The principled position of Czechoslovakia on the question of the struggle against the system of apartheid in South Africa was expressed in the statement by Bohuslav Chnoupek, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, made at the fortieth session of the United Nations General Assembly this year. He emphasized that Czechoslovakia consistently demands "the adoption by the Security Council of effective sanctions against South Africa. The new waves of terror perpetrated by the racists against the African population reveal that the so-called reforms carried out by the Pretoria régime do not change anything of the disgraceful nature of apartheid. The situation does not allow any delay. Apartheid must be swept away from the face of Africa as soon as possible. We resolutely advocate the immediate granting of independence to the people of Namibia on the basis of the implementation of the relevant decisions of the United Nations, including Security Council resolutions. The latest aggression of South Africa against the sovereign People's Republic of Angola has only provided new evidence that there will be no peace in the region as long as the apartheid régime exists. We condemn that aggression as a ruthless manifestation of the policy of State terrorism. We express our full support for the courageous struggle waged by the people of Angola in defence of the independence of their homeland."

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, which signed the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid as far back as 1975, is implementing all its provisions consistently and completely. It calls on the States which have not yet done so, particularly the advanced Western States, to accede to the Convention and thus to contribute to the final and definitive elimination of the criminal system of apartheid.